Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SY-05 /023 W

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R 020450Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2476

CONFIDENTIAL KATHMANDU 3451

PASS U.S. SECRET SERVICE, ROOM PB4, 1800 G STREET NW

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIN

SUBJ: COUNTERFIEIT U.S. CURRENCY IN NEPAL

NF: EMBASSY OMS OF 7/11/75 AND 7/24/75

- 1. REFERENCED OMS DESCRIBED PASSING OF PRESUMABLY COUNTER-FEIT U.S. \$20 BILLS IN KATHMANDU AND FORWARDED THREE \$20 NOTES, REQUESTING APPRAISAL OF THEIR AUTHENTICITY.
- 2. EMBASSY HAS NOW BEEN PROVIDED INFORMATION FROM AN OFFICER OF THE KOREAN EMBASSY AT THE KORAN AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST INDICATING THAT COUNTERFEIT BILLS IN U.S. \$20 DENOMINATIONS ARE CIRCULATING IN NEPAL. THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S SOURCE, DESCRIBED AS "RELIABLE," IMPLICATED PERSONNEL IN THE NEPALESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS BEING INVOLVED IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CURRENCY TO ENTER NEPAL AND NEPALESE POLICE PERSONNEL AS BEING INVOLVED IN CIRCULATING AND EXCHANGING THE CURRENCY. THE KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICER SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS MFA PERSONNEL WERE MISUSING DIPLOMATIC POUCH FACILITIES TO PERMIT THE COUNTERFEIT FUNDS TO ENTER THE COUNTRY.
- 3. UNLESS ADVISED OTHERWISE, WE WOULD PLAN TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH APPROPRIATE SENIOR GON OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, BEFORE DOING SO, WOULD APPRECIATE TREASURY CONFIDENTIAL

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DETERMINATION CONCERNING U.S. \$20 NOTES FORWARDED UNDER

REFERENCE. IF THESE ARE COUNTERFEIT IS INFORMATION
AVAILABLE ON POSSIBLE ORIGIN AND AREA OF DISTRIBTUION
OF SUCH COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY? WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS
THIS SITUATION WITH SENIOR GON OFFICIALS ON THE BASIS OF
AS MUCH SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE. CARGO

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NNN

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To: STATE

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